

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Final Rejection asserts a requirement to amend the specification to include a priority claim under 35 USC §119(e) or 120, based on PCT/JP00/03704. It is noted that this request is unwarranted in view of 1254 OG 126 which states:

"A reference under § 1.78 to the underlying international application is neither necessary nor appropriate in a nonprovisional application which entered the national stage from an international application after compliance with 35 U.S.C. 371. See *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* § 1893.03(c) (8th ed. 2001) (a national stage application filed under 35 U.S.C. 371 may not claim benefit of the filing date of the international application of which it is the national stage since its filing date is the date of filing of that international application."

It is noted that the present application is a national stage application of international application PCT/JP00/03704 and further that the Applicants have fully complied with the requirements for making a claim of priority in an international application, as acknowledged in the Office Action dated April 21, 2004 (see section 13 of the Office Action Summary). Accordingly, this requirement asserted in the final rejection is traversed as "neither necessary nor appropriate" as stated in 1254 OG 126.

Claims 12-15 and 18 have been amended to highlight patentable aspects of the invention. Claim 16 has been canceled, and claim 19 has been newly added. The amendments are presented in response to the present rejections and could not have been presented earlier. Support for the newly recited features is provided in Figs. 3-7 and their accompanying descriptions in the specification.

Claims 12, 13, 15, 16, and 18 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Ahmadi et al. (US 6,597,671) in view of Rode (US 6,157,818). Claims 14 and 17 were rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Ahmadi in view of Rode and further in view of Kakushi (JP 08107414). To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to the amended claims, the Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 12 now recites storing states of use of network identifiers in a table of a base station apparatus, updating the table in accordance with information from an existing base station apparatus, and then transmitting information about this table. In brief, when the table storing the states of use of network identifiers is updated, information about this table is transmitted so that all base station apparatuses in the same wireless communication system are able to learn the latest information about the use of the network identifiers.

By contrast to the above-noted features of the present invention, Ahmadi discloses that an operator determines a network identifier (i.e., NETWORK_ID) of a base station apparatus. Ahmadi also discloses a table associating numerous base station identifiers (i.e., BASE_ID) and base station names.

Ahmadi does not disclose or suggest a table that stores the states of use of a plurality of network identifiers. That is, Ahmadi's tables relate to base station identifiers and the only table Ahmadi discloses in relation to network identifiers is a NETWORK RESIDENT DATA TABLE 210 (see Ahmadi Fig. 12), and this NETWORK DATA TABLE 210 is situated in a NETWORK STATION, not a base station (see Ahmadi, col. 11, lines 24-30). In addition, unlike the present invention, Ahmadi's NETWORK RESIDENT DATA TABLE 210 does not store the states of use of network identifiers.

Moreover, Ahmadi's network identifier (NETWORK_ID) and base station identifier (BASE_ID) are different. While a single network identifier may be assigned to a plurality of base station apparatuses, a single base station identifier is never assigned to a plurality of base station apparatuses, according to Ahmadi. In other words, the network identifier of the present invention corresponds to Ahmadi's NETWORK ID.

In addition, according to the present claimed invention, information about a table that is updated in accordance with information from an existing base station apparatus is transmitted from a base station apparatus. However, Ahmadi does not disclose or suggest transmitting information about a table from a base station apparatus. In other words, Ahmadi does not disclose or suggest the feature of the present invention now recited in claim 12 that when a table that stores the states of use of a plurality of network identifiers is updated, information about this table is transmitted.

The Final Rejection proposes that Rode teaches a communication system having automatic addressing. However, Rode does not disclose or suggest a table that stores the states of use of a plurality of network identifiers.

Instead, Rode discloses that a slave transceiver acquires a new address from the new first master message that the slave transceiver receives (see Rode, col. 4, lines 34-45). According to Rode, the address of a slave transceiver changes every time power is turned on, and this feature does not depend on whether or not the slave transceiver forms the same communication network with an existing base station.

In addition, Rode does not disclose or suggest transmitting information about a table from a base station apparatus. In

other words, Rode does not disclose or suggest the feature recited in claim 12 that when a table that stores the states of use of a plurality of network identifiers is updated, information about this table is transmitted.

The Final Rejection proposes that Kakushi teaches extending a MAX address by one bit. However, Kakushi does not disclose or suggest assigning a network identifier to a new base station apparatus and does not disclose or suggest the feature recited in claim 12 that when a table that stores the states of use of a plurality of network identifiers is updated, information about this table is transmitted.

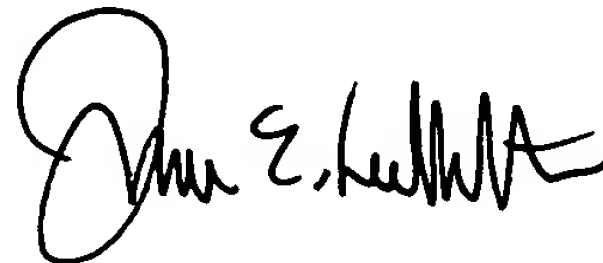
Thus, none of Ahmadi, Rode, and Kakushi teaches or suggests the above-noted features of the present claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the applied references do not suggest the subject matter defined by claim 12. Claim 18 similarly recites the above-described features distinguishing claim 12 from the applied references, but with respect to a method. For similar reasons that these features distinguish claim 12 from the references, so too do they distinguish claim 18. Therefore, allowance of claims 12 and 18 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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